
SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

On January 12, 2001, the Forest Service issued the final National Forest System Road Management Rule. This rule revises regulations concerning the management, use, and maintenance of the National Forest Transportation System. The final rule is intended to help ensure that additions to the National Forest System road network are essential for resource management and use; that construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of roads minimize adverse environmental impacts; and that unneeded roads are decommissioned and restoration of ecological processes are initiated (USFS 2001).

In August 1999, the USDA Forest Service published Miscellaneous Report Forest Service-643 titled *Roads Analysis: Informing Decisions about Managing the National Forest Transportation System*, which provides the guidance for developing a roads analysis plan. The objective of roads analysis is to provide decision makers with critical information to develop road systems that are safe and responsive to public needs and desires, are affordable and efficiently managed, have minimal negative ecological effects on the land, and are in balance with available funding for needed management actions.

This report considers the road-related issues on the Jicarilla Ranger District (Jicarilla Ranger District) of the Carson National Forest and identifies roads that have a high priority for maintenance. This report is a "living" document and reflects the conditions of the analysis area at the time of writing. It should be reviewed and updated periodically.

Process

Roads analysis is a six-step process. The steps are designed to be sequential with an understanding that the process may require feedback and iteration among steps over time as an analysis matures.

- Setting up the analysis
- Describing the situation
- Identifying the issues
- Assessing benefits, problems and risks
- Describing opportunities and setting priorities
- Reporting (Key Findings)

The amount of time and effort spent on each step differs by project based on specific situations and available information. The process provides a set of possible issues and analysis questions; the answers can help managers make choices about road system management.